



BEN FRANKLIN COFFEEHOUSE CHALLENGE – AWARD RECIPIENT OVERVIEW

Ben Franklin Coffeehouse Challenge: Inter-Faith Housing Alliance **Contact: Reverend Pastor Charles Quann**

Community: Pennlyn, PA

Meeting Place: Starbucks, Bethlehem Pike, Springhouse

We seek to implement a “Child Education/Parent Coaching Program,” designed to hone the intercommunication and conflict-resolution proficiency of both parents and children living in Inter-Faith’s Hope Gardens and its shelter program. Using professional trainers, along with volunteers from local faith-based and service groups as positive role models and familial support, the program would foster stability by enhancing respect, understanding, and harmony within each family.

The child education component is a character building program which gives children the tools to manage their anger and resolve conflicts, while at the same time developing empathy and discovering their own positive self-worth. The parent coaching component has similar goals, but concentrates on improving the adults’ skills at listening and reasoned discipline, as well as practice in supportive communication.

Ben Franklin Coffeehouse Challenge: Fishtown Neighborhood Diaries **Contact: Kristin Groenveld**

Community: Fishtown, PA

Meeting Place: Canvas Cyber Cafe, Girard Ave., Philadelphia

Our goal is to increase community involvement in the environment and gather artistic/poetic/historic feedback for ideas to use for painted improvements to make at the Fishtown Recreation Center and neighboring Fishtown sites by creating a fanzine called “Fishtown Neighborhood Diaries.” We propose to make 1) a book engaging our community to create ideas to make stencils to be used for our long-term plan of painting community-made murals in Fishtown, 2) reproduce part of the book to make a “Zine” for coffee shops and 3) reproduce part of a book to make a poster and Web page to display. We hope these strategies will address some of the issues that face the inner city: trash and graffiti, lack of activities for youth, and lack of community involvement.

Ben Franklin Coffeehouse Challenge: Beautifying SouthWest Philadelphia **Contact: Michelle Robinson**

Community: Kingsessing area of West Philadelphia

Meeting Place: Kingsessing Recreation Center, Kingsessing

We plan to involve community members and local groups in beautifying the Kingsessing area of West Philadelphia by planting 60 trees around the Comegys Public School, where there are currently no trees or a playground. We want to encourage and teach our children to care about our community, we want to bring nature back to our children by increasing the tree canopy where we live and learn, and finally, we want to develop community integrity, by introducing our neighbors to each other and demonstrating that it is possible to work together towards the successful completion of a community project.

Ben Franklin Coffeehouse Challenge: Community Cultural Exchange Facility

Contact: Natalie Felix

Community: Bella Vista, Philadelphia

Meeting Place: Starbucks, 4th & South in Philadelphia

Our group's purpose is to create an intergenerational facility called a Community Cultural Exchange, on or near South Street, for people to explore their mental, emotional, physical and spiritual passions through education and the arts, and share stories, history and culture with Philadelphia visitors. We want to create a multi-functional facility with a library, art gallery, theatre, classrooms, meeting rooms, a lounge/community room, and office space. We plan to make the space cost-efficient, with an interdisciplinary curriculum, as well as resources and space for the community. We also plan to create a volunteer system where people can trade services for use of space.

Ben Franklin Coffeehouse Challenge: Reaching Children of Prisoners

Contact: Arianne Hegeman

Community: Vineland, NJ

Meeting Place: Starbucks, Delsea Drive in Vineland

Our group addressed the need for outreach and follow-up assistance for families with incarcerated parents. The group agreed to create and provide an informational brochure to be handed out to a caregiver or remaining parent when an arraignment occurs. This brochure will offer resources such as: emergency financial assistance, youth programs, support groups, counseling services, and means of transportation for the family to use. The project would also include a teddy bear for each of the children in the home that is affected.

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